

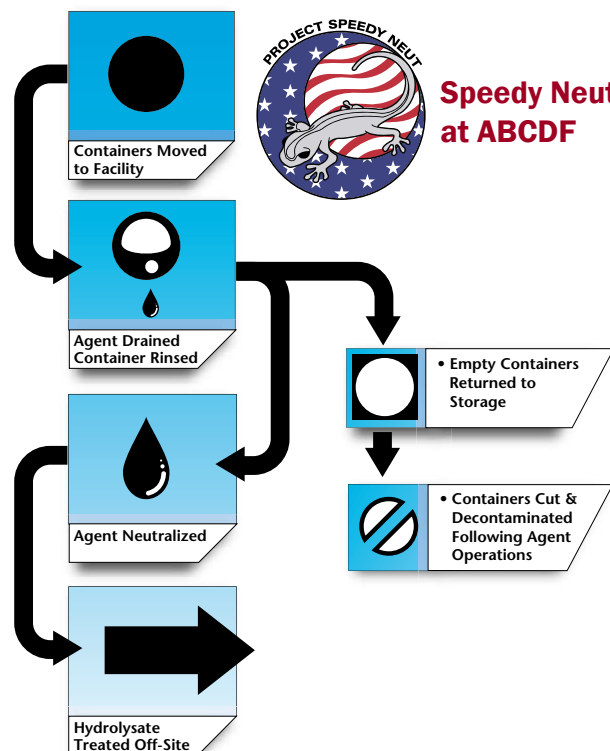
PROGRESS UPDATE

Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

(as of April 7, 2003)

Looking Ahead

- The Army and its contract team will soon start accelerated chemical agent operations, under Project Speedy Neut, at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF).
- ABCDF will neutralize 1,621 tons of blister agent HD (mustard) stored in steel containers at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md. Operations are expected to take six months.
- Following a gradual ramp-up, workers should drain an average of 12 containers per day, with shifts neutralizing agent around the clock. These highly skilled workers have a combined total of more than 11,000 hours of training per shift.
- The ABCDF team is committed to ensuring the safety of its workers, the community and the environment during all phases of the neutralization process.



Where We've Been

- After Sept. 11, 2001, the Army evaluated methods to reduce the public risk associated with chemical agent storage, including accelerating stockpile destruction.
- The Army worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The resulting disposal plan was approved by environmental regulators and endorsed by the Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission and federal, state and local elected officials.
- The accelerated disposal plan uses the same neutralization technology and much of the equipment already on hand for the construction of the original facility. In preparation for startup, workers recently conducted an Integrated Operation Demonstration using water rather than agent.
- Public meetings, presentations, web site updates, newspaper ads, newsletters and mailers are used to keep stakeholders informed and provide opportunities to ask questions and/or receive additional information.

APG, established in 1917, remains one of the Army's most active and diverse installations. Situated at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, it encompasses more than 72,400 acres. APG is home to one of the world's finest teams of military and civilian scientists, research engineers, technicians and administrators. APG Garrison Commander is COL Mardi U. Mark; ABCDF Site Project Manager is Joseph W. Lovrich.

For more information, contact the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 410-676-6800; the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Public Affairs Office, 410-436-5253; or the Bechtel Aberdeen Public Outreach Office, 410-436-9507.